(vi) Health education activities have been stepped up. Mass media, AIR & Doordarshan are actively involved.

(vii) 45 Leprosy Training Centres including 14 in voluntary sectors have been set up to provide training to various categories of workers providing service to leprosy patients.

(viii) Voluntary Organisations are encouraged to provide health education, rehabilitation and curative services to leprosy patients.

(ix) 13 Leprosy Rehabilitation Promotional units are providing rehabilitation services to leprosy cases in various states. There are proposals to set up another 7 such centres shortly in the MDT districts.

(x) The programme has been subjected to annual independent evaluation since 1986 to validate the reported date.

(xi) Antileprosy drugs are available free of cost and in sufficient quantities.

(xii) Rs. 46.90 crores have been spent during the first 3 years of the 7th Plan. Rs. 17.00 crores have been provided for the current year.

Setting up of a national medical university

22. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the medical education in respect of duration of the courses stipend in the post-graduate courses, subjects taught etc. in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up a national medical university so as to provide uniform medical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) The Medical Council of India has prescribed minimum requirements by way of staff, accommodation, equipment and also training and teaching programme duration of courses, examination pattern, etc. for both under-graduate and post-graduate courses. These recommendations are approved as Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act and are mandatory. The Medical Council of India conducts periodical inspections to see that these recommendations are followed by all institutions so that uniform standard of medical education is maintained in the country. However, in regard to post-graduate courses, the duration differ from University to University. Some universities are having two years course and some are having three years courses. The rate of stipends to post-graduate students also varies from State to State.

(b) There is no proposal to set up a national medical university to provide uniform medical education in the country.

Making of a Film Sahaja

23. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that film titled 'SAHAJA' was made by Aravindan in connection with the Festival of India in USSR;

(b) whether it was shown in the USSR; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total expenditure which was incurred on this film and who is responsible for incurring the expenditure; and

(d) what would be the fate of this film?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir, as it did not integrate with the theme of the exhibition on Women's equality and the struggles towards attaining it.

(c) and (d) The film was commissioned by Shri Dashrath Patel & Mrs. Chanderalekha. They have not submitted the accounts as yet neither have they approached the Government for taking over the film which is with Aravindan.

Renewal of the Bridge on National Highway in Cochin

24. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of the proposal to renew the bridge on the National Highway in Cochin; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the said bridge is very old and is likely to cause a big disaster like the one which took place near Quilon recently; if so, whether Government propose to take urgent steps to construct a new bridge on Cochin Alleppy National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Mattencherry and Venduruthy bridges. With the construction of the Cochin byepass, these two bridges no longer form part of National Highway 47 as their repair and maintenance is the responsibility of the State Government. The bridges at Venduruthy and Mattencherry were constructed in 1938—40. With a view to improving the condition of the road bridges and after consultations with Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), a scheme for improving the condition of road bridges has been evolved. A part of the scheme has already been implemented.

Profits of Air India and Indian Airlines from Gulf Sector

25. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of profits of Air India and Indian Airlines in 1987-88 from Gulf Sector and what was this amount in 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) what are the reasons for increase/decrease in the profits; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to minimise the airfare in Trivandrum-Gulf sector to make it equal to the fare of other Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Indian Airlines does not operate in the Gulf sector. The operating profit of Air India on the India-Gulf sector during the last three years was as follows:—

1985-86	..	Rs. 87.62 crores
1986-87	..	Rs. 64.47 crores
1987-88	..	Rs. 43.29 crores

(b) The main reasons for decline in the operating profits of Air India on the India-Gulf sector were mainly static market, increase in capacity, severe competition and resultant low yields.

(c) Air India charges the published fare between Trivandrum-Gulf constrasted over Bombay using the IATA agreed fare. These fares have been ratified by the Government concern-